

To: Carey, Curtis[Carey.Curtis@epa.gov]
From: Hague, Mark
Sent: Tue 2/9/2016 11:17:25 PM
Subject: RE: End of Day Update

Thanks.

Did you share up the line.....?

From: Carey, Curtis
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 4:55 PM
To: Hague, Mark <Hague.Mark@epa.gov>; Brincks, Mike <brincks.mike@epa.gov>; Peterson, Mary <Peterson.Mary@epa.gov>; Juett, Lynn <Juett.Lynn@epa.gov>; Stoy, Alyse <Stoy.Alyse@epa.gov>; Vann, Bradley <Vann.Bradley@epa.gov>; Washburn, Ben <washburn.ben@epa.gov>; Sanders, LaTonya <Sanders.Latonya@epa.gov>; Whitley, Christopher <Whitley.Christopher@epa.gov>; Brees, Angela <Brees.Angela@epa.gov>
Subject: End of Day Update

Here's the update from today.

HQ OPA and R7 OPA worked together on a few media inquiries regarding the JM STL's news conference this morning including:

- Washington Post, Darryl Fears (story expected to run either Wednesday night or Thursday morning)

WAO is going to have a photographer take pictures of the moms at their houses with families tomorrow.

- St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Chuck Raasch (story below)

I'm cited as the source for a Flint quote, but it should have been Monica Lee.

- CNS News, Penny Starr (story not currently scheduled but expect in the next day or so)

News Clips from Today:

CBS Local (St. Louis)

<http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2016/02/09/bridgeton-flint-moms-join-forces-vs-epa/>

Bridgeton, Flint Moms Join Forces vs EPA

By Brian Kelly, *February 9, 2016 12:01 PM*

WASHINGTON (KMOX)-“I think it’s time for the moms of Flint and the moms of St. Louis to make a pact and stay strong to fight for our children.”

- Just Moms STL co-founder Karen Nickel explaining why her group of mothers living near the radioactive Bridgeton Landfill, are joining forces with the mothers of Flint, Michigan to demand action from the Environmental Protection Agency.

During a press conference in Washington, both groups took direct aim at EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, for what they say is a lack of action. “Gina McCarthy remains silent and her staff remains silent,” Nickel said, “and children are sick and dying on her watch.”

Lois Gibbs, who founded Center for Health Environment and Justice after the Love Canal crisis, took up the cause of Just Moms STL. “Families are asking to be moved before its too late,” she said, “and McCarthy’s only response will be at that time, just like her response to the families in Flint, ‘I’m sorry.’”

Just Moms STL is in Washington hoping for a face-to-face meeting with Administrator McCarthy. They say they've tried thousands of times over the past two years, but have never gotten a reply from her.

Also coming under attack, was the largest shareholder of the landfill's owner, Bill Gates. "His Republic Services must stop using company's resources," she said, "to keep people trapped and voiceless by the Bridgeton/West Lake radioactive landfill.

Republic needs to stop lobbying the EPA and government officials to stall the relocation of St. Louis families."

A neighbor of the landfill, Robin Dailey, said Gates has acknowledged nothing. "He goes about his daily activities, "she says, "and rakes in quite a bit of dividends a year from Republic Services' Stock, which he could easily spend to move ground-zero residents away from this catastrophe waiting to happen. Yet he does nothing."

"Flint stands with Bridgeton," said Melissa Mays of the Flint group Water You Fight For, "and every other city that is facing poisoning and where nobody is listening."

Post-Dispatch

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/gateway-to-dc/west-lake-landfill-activists-join-forces-with-flint-water-protestors/article_e13b594b-e912-5139-9369-02d5c5e5fb4d.html

West Lake Landfill activists join forces with Flint water protestors to pressure EPA

Chuck Raasch

WASHINGTON • Activists around the West Lake Landfill controversy have joined with those from the Flint, Mich., water crisis to put pressure on the federal Environmental Protection Agency to respond more forcefully to both.

JUST MOMS stl, a group organized to force the EPA to reduce the threat of radioactive waste at West Lake Landfill, help families within a mile relocate, and assure property values for those within five miles, held a joint press conference with Flint activists here Tuesday.

The issue of whether, and how, to clean up waste from the federal government's nuclear weapons programs at West Lake has been made more critical by an underground fire at the adjacent Bridgeton Landfill.

About a dozen representatives of the Maryland Heights-area group said they will also picket EPA headquarters Wednesday, protesting what they say has been EPA administrator Gina McCarthy's unwillingness to meet with them, or to act more urgently on their behalf to address exposure to cancer-causing agents and other health hazards from the sites.

That standoff with the EPA is not new, and McCarthy has previously refused to meet with representatives. What is new is the linkage between West Lake and Flint, where the EPA and other local, state and federal authorities have been under fire for allowing lead exposure in water there to persist, endangering the health of families in that community.

Flint activists say recalcitrance and stonewalling from government agencies, and especially the EPA, have left residents exposed to cancer-causing lead and other health problems.

"Their community has suffered through silence from the EPA just like we are here in Bridgeton," said JUST MOMS stl co-founder Karen Nickel at Tuesday's press conference. "I think it is time for the moms of Flint and the moms of St. Louis to make a pact and stay strong and fight for our children."

Melissa Mays, a founder of a Flint group called Water You Fighting For, said, "I can only imagine the fear and anger that the Bridgeton families feel, because we feel it for you. We are right here with you and we are going through the same thing. To this day, no one is helping us."

The two women said their groups planned to share share health and other information, and continue to join forces to pressure the EPA.

A special counsel appointed by the state of Michigan said Tuesday that civil and criminal charges were possible, including manslaughter, in Flint. The federal Department of Justice is also looking into that crisis.

Sens. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., and Claire McCaskill, D-Mo; and Reps. Ann Wagner, R-Ballwin, and William Lacy Clay, D-St. Louis, last May wrote McCarthy asking that she meet with the JUST MOMS group. But Nickel said they got no response. She said the agency was flooded this past week with about 1,000 calls from St. Louis area callers, but got no response in another request for a meeting with McCarthy.

A spokesman for the EPA pointed to efforts the agency said it is doing to confront both problems. A spokesman highlighted EPA Regional Administrator Mark Hague's Jan., 11 report on what the agency did in 2015 at West Lake.

"We've completed field investigations necessary to further define the extent and location of the radio-logical materials at the site, which is a critical step to move us toward proposing a final remedy by the end of 2016," Hague said. "We also recently announced our decision for the installation of an in-ground, physical isolation barrier on site along with other engineering controls."

Of Flint, EPA spokesman Curtis Carey said the agency's top priority in 'Flint "is the safety of residents. The agency is part of a larger, on-the-ground, federal response focused on developing short- and long-term solutions to the crisis. "

Clay, Wagner, Blunt and McCaskill have also sponsored a bill that would transfer authority over the landfill from EPA to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It has passed the Senate, but not yet the House. Members of the group were expected to meet with both Wagner and Clay, the two members of Congress's spokespersons said.

In addition, Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster wrote Clay and Wagner on Tuesday saying he supported their bill, charging that "the EPA has time and again made promises but failed to

deliver results."

But landfill owner Republic Services warned that the transfer could delay a cleanup the EPA has promised to have in place by the end of the year and could cost taxpayers more money.

Republic spokesman Russ Knocke called the press conference a "stunt" that, coupled with the authority transfer bill, would prevent the EPA from being "allowed to finish its work, quickly."

A Wagner aide said that under the bill pushed by the Missouri delegation, cleanup costs would still be on Republic even if federal control shifted to the Corps. Missouri's congressional delegation is pushing for the change because the EPA "has clearly drug its feet on this issue," said Wagner's spokesperson Meghan Burris.

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KMOV

<http://www.kmov.com/story/31174709/local-moms-partner-with-flint-moms-to-fight-epa-in-washington-dc>

Local Moms Partner With Moms From Flint To Fight EPA In Washington, DC

Nora Farrell, Feb 09, 2016, 8:08am

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (KMOV.com) - Local moms from Just Moms STL, are partnering with moms in Flint, Michigan Tuesday to call out the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and voice their public health concerns in Washington, D.C.

Just Moms STL was formed to educate community members about the dangers of the West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton. Leaders say they have been wanting to meet with EPA officials for two years.

The group plans to discuss the impact the landfill has on children as well as protecting their property's value.

If the EPA fails to act, Just Moms STL says they may have to take matters into their own

Fox 2 News, St. Louis

<http://fox2now.com/2016/02/09/bridgeton-flint-moms-join-forces-in-washington-for-epa-failings/>

Bridgeton, Flint moms join forces in Washington for EPA failings

Posted 9:09 am, February 9, 2016, by Staff Writer

BRIDGETON, MO (KTVI)-Some mothers from Bridgeton and Flint, Michigan are taking their complaints about the EPA to Washington Tuesday. Members of Just Moms STL will join other women at a news conference at the National Press Club in D.C.

They're upset about what they see as failures by the EPA to deal with radioactive waste at the West Lake Landfill and tainted water in Flint.

Last week, the U.S. Senate approved a plan to transfer cleanup of the landfill from the EPA to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

CBS St. Louis

Burning Bridgeton Landfill Moms Go To Washington

February 8, 2016 4:40 PM By Kevin Killeen

BRIDGETON, Mo. (KMOX) – A group of local moms who believe their children are suffering health problems from a landfill fire plead for help from the head of the EPA.

“Our children are suffering from nose bleeds, and fatigue, and hair loss and asthma and breathing problems,” said organizer Karen Nichols of the group Just Moms STL.

Nichols said the group hopes to meet with EPA administrator Gina McCarthy to spur her to immediate action for those living in the vicinity of the Bridgeton Landfill, a garbage dump smoldering underground since 2010 that sits adjacent to the West Lake Landfill nuclear waste site where debris was dumped from the Manhattan Project.

“Gina McCarthy has turned a deaf ear on the community of West Lake, the Bridgeton West Lake Landfill Superfund site,” Nichols said, “and moms want to be able to go in and sit down and have a conversation with her.”

Nichols said the Just Moms STL group wants McCarthy to authorize the voluntary relocation of residents living within a mile of the landfill, and to protect their property values through the “property assurance plan.”

The grassroots group has gained some momentum in recent days, after the U.S. Senate passed a bill on their behalf authorizing the oversight of the landfill to be transferred from the EPA to the Army Corps of Engineers, which the group believes would be more responsive than the EPA to clean up the nuclear waste.

Curtis D. Carey, Ph.D.

Region 7 Public Affairs Director

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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